



Board Meeting

Monday 21st May 2012, 7:30pm

WRI Hall

MINUTE

1) Welcome and apologies

PRESENT:

Directors – David McCall, Lisa MacDermid, Davey Robertson, Blair Urquhart, Malcolm Allan, William Levack, Peter Jones, Emma Margrett.

Staff – Claire Mullan, Will Reid

Apologies – Peter McRitchie, Bob Hughes, Alan Caldwell, Chris Palmer, Bill Knox, Andy Heming,

2) Consideration of the minute of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting on the 30th April was approved.

3) Matters ongoing

a) Hillground

Malcolm Allan gave an update on his exploration of options for the hillground.

Emphasising that this was very much a Plan B if the current investigations for Bumble Bee Square (BBS) didn't come to fruition, he gave some detail on an e-mail he had circulated prior to the meeting. This concerned a development in Ayrshire called Knockroon which is an ambitious project aiming to provide self-sustaining live-work units in the area. He felt it ticked many boxes for the Trust. He wasn't sure of the grant aid situation and suggested that a next step would be to set up a meeting with the group in Ayrshire to explore their experience of this kind of development.

Agreed that the timescales involved in such an ambitious venture would go beyond those required by a BBS solution but that the Board could decide that this was the better solution for the Trust in the longer term.



There was some concern that such a development was not in accordance with the planning strategy and whilst eco-pods/holiday homes were fine, the planning department would not look so favourably on live-work units.

However, others felt that exploring the option further and arranging a meeting with Knockroon would help as the Trust could then approach the Planning Department armed with more knowledge.

Agreed that it should be discussed further at a Cultybraggan Camp Working Group (CCWG) meeting.

Agreed that the BBS option of Club la Costa holiday units should be seen through to its conclusion.

b) Bunker update

The first stage of due diligence was being progressed and agreement had almost been reached on the final stage.

Two points outstanding on the draft agreement. GCI Com would like the Keir report on the leak assigned to them and the £10,000 deposit to be conditional on planning being granted. CDT contend that the planners have indicated that there will be no issue and GCI Com should take this as a reasonable risk.

An agency agreement is also required. The six points to be addressed on this will be circulated to the CCWG in the first instance.

Access to the due diligence report still not forthcoming. The Business Growth Fund will be approached to ask for their opinion as the report was compiled for them.

c) Financial update

Exemplar Funding

Still no news from the Scottish Government.

If funding is allocated then that will be used to fund the core staff and overheads from April 2012 rather than the bunker fuel money. The Trust will soon be two thirds of the way through this fund taking it to June 2012. Therefore a response from the Scottish Government is required as soon as possible.

ACTION: David McCall to contact Judith Young before he goes on holiday.

VAT inspection visit

VAT officer will be conducting an inspection visit on Weds 30th May.

The VAT return to end March 2012 showed HMRC owing CDT more than is usual and this is probably what had triggered the visit.

The reason for the larger amount of VAT to be reclaimed was the purchase of the biomass boiler for the district heating system.

No particular difficulties are anticipated. Peter Jones and Andy Heming will be present and report back to the Board.

ROC Bunker

Completion of this sale had been delayed through difficulty getting the signed deed of restriction from Triodos. Not resolved as yet.

d) Working Groups

i) Terms of Reference

Only one had been received, this being from the Renewables Working Group.

Agreed to pass each one as they presented rather than as a batch.

Renewables Working Group Terms of Reference duly approved by the Board.

ii) End of Year Reports

Only waiting for the Sports and Recreation report. This Working Group will compile its report when Peter McRitchie returns from holiday next week.

e) Community Council

Davey Robertson and Claire Mullan to progress with organising the meeting at the Camp.

f) Bumble Bee Square update

Currently waiting for Jimmy Denholm to report back on the option of Club la Costa holiday units on the hillground. Expecting this by the end of the week.

If this fails then there are other options but the planners have ruled out the high earning options e.g. housing at the Camp. It may therefore revert to the option of a partial build on the square. The only other possibility is the build at the munitions dump. However, the cost of making this a viable plot is large and there are other size and viability issues.

There was some concern that this was inaccurate as the planners hadn't absolutely ruled out the live-work option of housing at the Camp. That the BBS/CDT Working Group should have gone in with a stronger pitch for this option. It was felt that this would be a popular option with villagers as it would allow families to stay in Comrie. It was further reported that the Planning Officer had unofficially expressed her support for this option in principle. That if the Working Group went back with a stronger pitch it would be supported.

Others disagreed and pointed to the note of the meeting with the Planning Department which quite clearly stated that this option had been ruled out.

It was suggested that the CDT could formally approach the Planning Officer to ask for a firm decision, in writing.

However, caution was advised as pushing it now may pre-empt an unfavourable decision. That the issue had been formally represented to the Council in response to the Local Area Plan consultation and that the due process should be gone through to obtain a final decision on the matter.

ACTION: Will Reid to circulate a copy of the formal representation to the Board.

4) Matters arising

a) Office Move

The furniture and files had been moved as had the phone line. All that was required to make the new office operation was broadband. This was expected to be in place by Tuesday and the IT consultant had been booked to finalise the work on Wednesday.

The official archiving of records which had to be kept for a required length of time had already been done. These would be stored at Hut 3.



Everything else would need the Board to decide what to keep and what to recycle.

It was decided to move everything up to Hut 2 to be sorted through without the deadline of the end of May. Staff will pack up and Board will meet at the office on Monday evening (28th May) to ferry boxes and spare furniture up to the Camp.

b) Comrie Fortnight

The Board would like to take 2 stalls on the first Saturday; one for the CDT in general, the other for the Energy Advisor.

The Board will hold an Open Day at the Camp on the second Saturday. The exact format is to be decided. The Board will report back to Claire with ideas.

ACTION:

Claire to contact Comrie Fortnight to advise of these plans and book advertising.

Blair to contact Allotments to arrange refreshments for the Open Day.

Sports Working Group to discuss holding a Sports Event.

Youth Working Group to approach CYES and Youth Drama.

Claire to check insurances on the Trikes.

5) Consideration of membership applications

The Board approve the full membership application which had been received.

6) AOCB

a) Malcolm reported that he will be meeting with Doug smart to formalise his agency agreement.

b) Claire showed the Board some information she had received on a smartphone app called mi-Perthshire. Membership free for charities and the Board agreed to progress with this.

ACTION: Communications Working Group to convene a meeting to discuss

c) David reported that Morrison's Academy had expressed an interest in being involved with the Youth conference.

d) No response had been received yet on the Awards for All application for a mower.

e) Laggan Park



Davey Robertson and Lisa MacDermid had attended the recent meeting. They reported that the committee now had a new Chair and had convened a Working Group which had already made a start on fencing repairs. Emma Margrett offered a contribution of hedging plants from the Orchard Working Group.

Fundraising would be needed to buy paint for the Pavilion. CDT has internal paint if that were needed.

There had been some concern that any funding applications made by the Laggan Park Committee would be competing with CDT applications. Agreed that collaboration between the two groups could be advantageous for both.

There had also been some concern that more football pitches were not needed at Cultybraggan Camp. However, the Board identified an overlap between the Football and Cricket seasons and that the pitches at Laggan sometimes flood.

7) The meeting closed at 9pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 25th June, 7:30pm, CDT Office (32-34 Drummond Street)